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JOHN GULINO ON NY-11

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10 SPECIAL ELECTION ON

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JANUARY 16, 2015

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Dialogue

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MR. PASCALE: While we know who the Republican candidate will be in the race to replace Congressman Michael Grimm, we are still waiting to hear from the Democrats, as to who they will put up to face against Dan Donovan.

Joining me now to talk about where they're at in that process to select a candidate is the Chairman of the Staten Island Democratic Committee, John Gulino. He's joining us from our Staten Island bureau.

John, thanks so much for being here.

MR. GULINO: Good morning, Anthony, and thank you for having me. It's a pleasure to be here.

MR. PASCALE: I want to ask you first where you're at in making your decision.

MR. GULINO: We're at, as I've indicated to many newspapers and media outlets, we're in the process of interviewing potential candidates.

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I've had meetings with various elected officials who have expressed an interest in the office, and those elected officials, I'll mention them again, are, of course, Assemblyman Michael Cusick, former Congressman, Mike McMahon, Councilman Vincent Gentile, Assemblyman Bill Colton, and then we have some community activists, a gentleman by the name of Bob Holtz, a policeman from the South Shore, Bob McKenna, and various other assorted people who have expressed an interest in being heard about who should be the candidate.

MR. PASCALE: We've heard from various sources that Mike Cusick is the frontrunner.

Does he want to run for this seat?

MR. GULINO: He hasn't declared officially, as Dan Donovan didn't declare officially until recently. So, no, there's been no official declaration, and

Dialogue

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at the present time, the process that I'm

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conducting, as I've indicated to many

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people, is a very transparent process. As

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opposed to saying, okay, this is my

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candidate, and I have that power to do so,

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I have decided that we need a much more

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transparent process, especially in light

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of the fact that I think who represents

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the people of Staten Island in Congress is

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extremely, extremely important.

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MR. PASCALE: Is that a swipe a bit

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to the Republicans at how they chose Dan

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Donovan? Some have said that they simply

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anointed him their candidate.

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MR. GULINO: Yes, and I don't believe

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in anointed positions. I believe in a

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Democratic process. The Democratic Party

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is the party of the big tent, and I have a

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philosophy, even if people have come to

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see me and expressed an interest, don't

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officially become the candidates.

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So, I've asked each and every one of

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2 them, if you're not the candidate, will
3 you support who my candidate is, and all
4 of them have said, yes. So, I'm bringing
5 more people into the Party, and I think
6 that's because of this transparent
7 process. I'm not creating a divisive
8 atmosphere of this elected against another
9 elected.

10 I believe in -- I'm basically a
11 peacemaker. I try and bring people
12 together, and that's been my whole
13 philosophy in life as the Chairman of the
14 Democratic Party on Staten Island.

15 The Staten Island Democratic Party is
16 now the most cohesive, all-inclusive party
17 that it's ever been. The Democratic
18 County Committee has people of all faiths,
19 religions, creed and color, and I'm very
20 proud of that.

21 MR. PASCALE: Let me ask you about
22 the race that you ran not too long ago,
23 and that was with Domenic Recchia for

Dialogue

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Congress.

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Many felt that this was a seat for the taking, that the Democrats were in a perfect position to try to take this seat from the Republicans, and the Recchia campaign, well, we know what that was.

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Did you learn anything from that race?

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MR. GULINO: I learned the fact, and I've mentioned this to prior media outlets, that -- and that's why this transparent process I'm vetting candidates, I want to talk about issues with the candidates.

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I was born and raised on Staten Island. I'm very familiar with the issues. I want to make sure that we have a candidate -- I intend to have an excellent candidate for this race, who is versed on the issues, who is articulate, and who can properly represent the people of Staten Island in Congress.

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2 MR. PASCALE: Was Domenic Recchia not
3 properly vetted, in your opinion?

4 MR. GULINO: Domenic Recchia is a
5 gentleman, a friend, former finance chair
6 of the city council, a very intelligent
7 man. Unfortunately, he wasn't able to
8 articulate the issues to the best of his
9 ability, and that was the deficiency in
10 the campaign.

11 MR. PASCALE: Let's talk about when
12 you do have a candidate. How will you try
13 to beat Dan Donovan? What are his
14 weaknesses that you'll try to uncover?

15 MR. GULINO: Well, keep in mind, the
16 people I've mentioned as potential
17 candidates are experienced legislatures.

18 Dan Donovan is a prosecutor, also a
19 friend, also a gentleman, but he doesn't
20 have the experience. Congress is about
21 legislating, about drafting bills to help
22 the people of a constituent district.

23 There are so many issues affecting

Dialogue

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the people of Staten Island, traffic,

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infrastructure, and you need an

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experienced person, a person who has had

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legislative experience and background, and

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the people I've mentioned, as you can see,

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are all in the legislature --

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MR. PASCALE: Last question,

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Chairman, when --

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MR. GULINO: -- or have been.

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MR. PASCALE: -- when can we expect a

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decision from you?

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MR. GULINO: I've indicated that on

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or before the end of the month, we'll have

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a declared candidate.

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MR. PASCALE: And we will wait for

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that.

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Chairman of the Staten Island

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Democratic Committee, John Gulino.

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Thanks so much for joining us from

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our Staten Island bureau.

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MR. GULINO: Thank you, Anthony, and

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thank you.

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Dialogue

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Dialogue

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I, Dorothy Florentino, do hereby

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state that the foregoing was transcribed

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from an audio to the best of my ability.

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/S/ DOROTHY FLORENTINO

Dorothy Florentino

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Dated:

November 4, 2015

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